

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Costa Rican specimen was collected during a field exercise of the Organization for Tropical Studies. The author wishes to thank the curators of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Los Angeles County Museum and U.S. National Museum for the loan of specimens from the collections of those institutions. Dr. Dean Amadon provided free access to the collections of the American Museum of Natural History.

References:

- de Schauensee, R. M., 1964. *The Birds of Colombia and adjacent areas of South and Central America*. Narberth, Pennsylvania.
- Gilliard, E. T., 1941. The birds of Mt. Auyan-tepui, Venezuela. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* LXXVII 439-508.
- Hellmayr, E. and Conover, B., 1942. *Catalogue of Birds of the Americas*. Zool. Series, Field Museum Nat. Hist.
- Naumburg, E. M. B., 1930. The birds of Matto Grosso, Brazil. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 60.
- Pinto, O. M. de O., 1964. *Ornithologia Barsiliensis*, Vol. 1. Dept. de Zool., Sec. de Agricultura Sao Paulo.

Taxonomic notes on African birds

by C. M. N. WHITE

Received 11th December, 1967

The present completes notes on material in the Cape Town Museum and National Museum, Bulawayo in 1966.

Eurocephalus anguitimens Smith

Examination of large series does not convince me that the southern African nominate form can be subdivided by the recognition of *E. a. niveus* Clancey, 1965, *Arnoldia*, 1, no. 23, p. 2; Newington, Transvaal.

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus (Sharpe).

I am satisfied that *P. f. dendrophilus* Clancey, 1962, *Durban Mus. Novit.* 6, p. 152. Chimanimani Mt., Rhodesia is a valid form. It differs from the nominate form in having the crown dusky olive-grey, less sharply demarcated from the mantle, and the latter is more brownish-olive, less green. Its range is the highlands of eastern Rhodesia from Vumba to Inyanga.

Apalis thoracica (Shaw & Nodder).

Examination of much more material since my 1962 review makes it desirable to recognise additional forms and amend the details of some others in southern and central Africa. In the south-west Cape Province three forms are valid. The population west of the mountains from Cape Town to Lamberts Bay lacks green on the upperside and has pure grey flanks and should stand as *A. t. griseopyga* Lawson, 1965, *Ostrich*, p. 4: Kersenfontein, Berg River. East of the mountains from Paarl to Mossel Bay *A. t. capensis* Roberts, has a green wash on the lower back and slightly more olive-grey flanks. Still further east from Beaufort West and Knysna almost to Humansdorp the upperside exhibits a brownish-olive wash on

the mantle, more olive-brown flanks and some rusty wash on the middle of the underside. These should stand as *A. t. claudei* Sclater.

Further east from Humansdorp to the Kei River occurs the rather different nominate form with olive-green mantle, pale yellow underside below the black collar and greyish-olive flanks. East of the Kei River to Natal it is replaced by the very similar *A. t. venusta* Gunning & Roberts in which the throat is tinged with yellow and not clear white.

The two forms *A. t. lebomboensis* Roberts and *A. t. drakensbergensis* Roberts both differ from *venusta* in their green, not grey crowns. *A. t. spelonkensis* is brighter above than *venusta* and has a darker, more grey-brown crown.

In Rhodesia, Mocambique, Zambia and Malawi two additional forms must be recognised. *A. t. quarta* Irwin, 1966, Durban Mus. Novit. 8, p. 51: Gorongosa Mountain, Mocambique is a well marked form nearest to *arnoldi* above but with more dusky olive mantle and darker brown cap; below more like *rhodesiae* in the small amount of yellow on the lower abdomen which is slightly infused with brownish-olive, whilst the rest of the underside below the breast-band is greyish-white rather than creamy. Only known from the type locality.

Populations of Zambia and Malawi which I formerly united with *arnoldi*, I now think should stand as *A. t. whitei* Grant & Praed. The green on the upperside is rather variable, most marked in birds from Malawi, but below they are more like *rhodesiae* but with the throat and area below the black collar greyish-white rather than creamy, and the lower abdomen slightly more greenish-yellow. In 1962 I assigned the population of Ufipa, Tanzania to *A. t. murina* Reichenow. Others have referred these birds to *A. t. youngi* Kinnear. In material which I have compared, the sides of the lower abdomen are olive-buff rather than white, but Mrs. Hall kindly informs me that the material in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) is too close to *youngi* for separation. The lower abdomen in *murina* is pale yellow.

Apalis flavida (Strickland)

In 1962 I united *tenerrima* Grote with *neglecta* (Alexander). The former has a grey crown and nape whilst in the latter the hind crown and nape are green. More recently an additional form, *A. f. canora* Lawson, 1962, Bull. B.O.C. 82, p. 134: Sumbu, Abercorn, Zambia has been proposed for a grey-crowned bird. I have again examined these forms and find that over most of their ranges *neglecta* and *tenerrima* are constant but that in northern Zambia from the Lungwevungu River and Mwinilunga in the west to the Copperbelt, the Luapula Valley and Abercorn is a belt where both types and intermediates occur.

Remiz minutus gigi (Winterbottom).

I have examined two of the three specimens upon which this form was based. They are distinctly browner and less grey above than the nominate form and markedly more brownish-buff below. Although only known from the type-locality, on present evidence this is a valid form.

Note: Mr. Clancey is quite correct (*Bull. B.O.C.* 87, p. 93) in saying that I misquoted the type locality of his *Lonchura c. tessellatus*. The error is regretted